



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan
202-224-6167

BRISTOL, CUMBERLAND, NORTH SMITHFIELD, AND PAWTUCKET RECEIVE THERMAL IMAGING EQUIPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Four cities and towns in Rhode Island will each be awarded thermal imaging devices, U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today. The Bristol Police Department, Cumberland Hill Fire District, North Smithfield Fire and Rescue Service, and the Pawtucket Fire Department will each receive the apparatus, valued at about \$12,500, from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the 2005 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP).

The thermal imager is a detection and sensory device which can be utilized by emergency personnel in a variety of ways. Police officers will use the apparatus for long distance surveillance and after-dark operations. Firefighters will employ the imager's heat indicator system to measure temperature levels of an object or to capture critical thermal scene information.

"The advances in thermal imaging technology have made detection devices some of the most important instruments used by emergency responders today. This surveillance capability allows for police and fire officials to detect the nature of a situation from a far distance with explicit detail, such as the number of people within a location or the temperature and severity of a fire," Senator Chafee said. "I am pleased that the federal government has recognized that although these departments may not have the financial means to acquire this equipment at this time, their importance necessitates their acquisition."

Chafee pointed out that frequently these devices have proved useful in finding a lost child.

A member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, he also explained that the recent Fiscal Year 2005 Department of Homeland Security

Appropriations Act passed by Congress directed the DHS and its CEDAP to assist smaller jurisdictions by providing equipment for necessary anti-terrorism equipment and technology. Chafee was a supporter of the legislation.

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